Meeting Summary
Quarterly DGDC/SMAC Meeting
11:00 a.m.,
February 25, 2005
State Training Room
Paradee Center
Dover, DE

Attendance List:
Mike Mahaffie .... State Planning Coord.
Sandy Schenck .... DGS
Miriam Pomilio............... DGS
Dick Sacher .... UD/RDMS
John Callahan .... UD/RDMS
Tina Callahan................ UD/RDMS
John Laznik................... UD/CADSR
Shelly McCoy .... UD/Morris Library
Nicole Minni .... UD/WRA
Peggy Bacon.................. DelDOT
Millie Raley.................... DelDOT
Kelly Katz .... DelDOT
Debbie Sullivan .... DNREC
Barbara Gladders.......... Div. of Public Health
George Yocher.............. Div. of Public Health
Brianne Press .... URS
Sandra Janowski........... New Castle Co.
Chris Siple..................... New Castle Co.
Rick Sherwood.............. DEMA
Matt Laick...................... Sussex Co.
Brad Strittmatter............ Sussex Co.
Kim Cloud .... DTI
Chris Sommers .... DC Group
Janet Lardner................ DBF, Inc.
Shawn Winterbottom..... Del. Nat. Guard
David Sanders .... Del. Nat. Guard
Anne Jeffers.................. US Census Bureau
Jocelyn Lutte................. Artesian Water
Skip Hurst .... Artesian Water
Bernie Yacobucci .... WILMAPCO

Welcome and Introductions
Mike Mahaffie began the meeting at approximately 11:00 a.m. The usual round of attendees introducing themselves was delayed until slightly later in the meeting because of the snow and snow-related delays, which led to several attendees arriving after the start of the meeting.

Information Updates
DataMIL Migration
Sandy Schenck gave an update on the migration of the DataMIL from UD's Research and Data Management Services office to the DGS and DTI. Sandy introduced Miriam Pomilio, who has been hired to manage the geodatabases that make up the framework data holdings of the DataMIL. He noted that a job posting has been released for an additional position to work on the web site and IMS services. Sandy reported strong response to that posting, but noted that some of those candidates may not be fully eligible to work in the United States. He urged members of the Delaware GIS Community to consider the position and visit the University of Delaware employment site (www.udel.edu/udjobs/prof.html) to see if they might be interested in the position.

Sandy noted that the DataMIL site is up and running at DTI and that some of the functions have not been working, but that some of those should shortly be back on-line. He praised the DTI staff he has been working with and noted that a new, multi-agency team is emerging to maintain the DataMIL.

2005 GIS Conference
Mike Mahaffie gave a brief update on plans for the 2005 statewide GIS conference, planned for April 21, 2005, at the Atlantic Sands Hotel, in Rehoboth Beach. Mike noted that there will be pre-conference workshops and (new for 2005!) post-conference field experiences. Registration is open and available on-line from the Conference web site (www.state.de.us/planning/gis2005).

Mike noted that it appears that the Governor will not be able to attend the 2005 Conference, as she has the last several conferences. He explained that he hopes to have the Lieutenant Governor, John Carney, speak at the conference instead. Other speakers will include the GIS Coordinators of Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania and the head of the USGS' National Geospatial Programs Office. Mike also hopes to feature the president of the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC).

John Callahan added that he has received many presentation abstracts and hopes to have a line-up of presentations and discussion sessions finalized early in March.

Public Safety/911 Data
Mike Mahaffie noted that he has been working closely since the last DGDC meeting with staff from DTI and from the Department of Safety and Homeland Security to provide GIS data for use in mapping applications within the nine Public Safety Answering Points, known as PSAPs. The effort has involved the three county GIS offices and the University of Delaware and has served to highlight some areas in which Delaware's centerline and addressing data is lacking. Efforts to fill those gaps are continuing.

As part of this update, Mike noted that there is now strong GIS leadership within the Department of Safety and Homeland Security, where the new IT manager, Tom Steele, is very interested in working with the GIS Community. Mike noted that Tom had planned to attend the DGDC meeting, but was kept away by the snow.

Among the data sets that are under consideration for this project are the zip code dataset, fire district dataset, and a subdivision polygon dataset.

Impervious Surface Mapping
Mike Mahaffie noted that the Surface Water Management Task Force, created by Governor Minner to look into problems related to flooding, is very interested in several spatial data sets that the GIS Community has been discussing, including impervious surfaces. Mike explained that the Task Force is considering contracting for a project to extract impervious surfaces from the 2002 orthophotography. Nicole Minni noted that staff at the Water Resources Agency have been looking into whether they have the tools to perform that task, and may be interested in the project.

Elevation Data
Mike Mahaffie also explained that the Surface Water Management Task Force is interested in updated elevation data for the state of Delaware. Sandy Schenck gave an

update on the progress of the LiDAR project that DGS is managing with USGS. The USGS, working through NASA, has collected LiDAR data for eastern Kent County and is working now to finish collecting data for all of Sussex County. This data will be processed to create elevation contours at a higher resolution than is now available. A Digital Elevation Model (DEM) will also be available. Un-processed, raw LiDAR data will be available, but is expected to be too large a data set for most to use. Mike noted that the Task Force may be able to fund collection of LiDAR data for the remainder of the state.

Orthophotography
Mike mahaffie reported that a source of funding has been identified for the next update of the statewide orthophotography, but that it will not be updated until 2007. Mike explained that the Department of Transportation has expressed interest in making sure that the project is funded, but plans to stay with the 5-year update cycle that had been discussed in 2002. Mike added that other contributions will be sought and praised New Castle County, DNREC, and others for helping fund the project in 2002.

Mike added that the I-Team is discussing with the Department of Safety and Homeland Security whether the restrictions on public access to the highest resolution version of the 2002 orthos should be lifted.

Formalizing GIS Coordination
Mike Mahaffie reported that the I-Team has met with the State Budget Office and presented the white paper on GIS Coordination in Delaware that had been called for at the November DGDC meeting. Mike noted that the Budget Office leaders seem interested and have asked for more information and for draft legislation.

Roundtable #1: What Data Do You Need?
This roundtable discussion was designed to create the following list of data needs, hopes and desires. Each participant was asked to name the data set or data sets that they most need, but to which they do not have good access.

- Digital Soils Data
  The group is aware that this data set is being prepared by the USDA, but it has not been completed and published.
- Updated Hi-Resolution Orthophotography
  Several members of the group reiterated this need during discussion.
- A Statewide Geocoding Service
  This need was repeated many times during discussion. The group would like to see a statewide centerline file with address ranges, or a statewide address-point data set, and a central geocoding service/application, or data set. There was interest in having address data within municipalities as well. Some members also mentioned the need to have access to the "Verizon data," referring to address data kept by the phone company.

- Address Data Standards
  While not strictly a data-availability issue, it was seen as important to standardize the way address attributes are kept and published.
- Historical Data Sets
  Members are interested in geo-referenced aerial photography from past years, digital versions of historical atlases, and similar data. They want to be able to track and map changes. There was also interest in historical Census data and normalized historical land use data.
- Past Satellite Imagery
  An archive of available satellite scenes that include parts of Delaware.
- Data-Availability Training
  New members of the community would like help/mentoring on "what's available."
- Municipal Zoning
  Zoning data sets are available from the counties, but generally not for lands within municipalities.
- Updated Tax Parcel Data
  The County tax parcel data on the DataMIL is not yet updated on a regular basis. New Castle County and Sussex County offer tax parcel information via IMS sites, but not necessarily for download.
- Communities and Subdivisions
  A data set of communities (other than incorporated/municipal) and subdivisions.
- Trailer Parks and Mobile Homes
  This is relates to the subdivisions data noted above.
- Road Classifications
  As part of a standards efforts for road data, there should be standard road type classifications.
- Census Data Conflated to the Framework
  There was interest in having Census areas match the state's Framework data.
- Updated Elevation Data
  Members are interested in both contour data and a Digital Elevation Model (DEM) and would like both to be available on-line for viewing and download.
- New Developments
  Where growth is occurring, and at a finer-detailed level.
- Locations of Future Road Projects
  Where road work is planned.
- Transportation Assets
  Data sets of pedestrian crossings, bike paths, traffic lights and similar non-centerline transportation assets.
- Building Footprints
  The actual outlines of all buildings in Delaware.
- Impervious Surfaces
  As previously discussed.
- Reference Points/Reference Systems
  Locations and details about survey reference systems in Delaware.

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- Stormwater Management As-Builts
  Exactly where stormwater management structures (pipes, ponds, etc.) are located.
- Weather Data
  A central site for access to weather data for Delaware (DEOS?)
- Critical Infrastructure
  Utilities, public buildings, etc.

Information: Sussex County On-Line Mapping

Matt Laick and Brad Strittmatter gave a demonstration of the Sussex County Internet mapping site (map.sussexcountyde.gov). The site includes a full list of data, from a variety of sources, and includes detailed tax parcel information. The site also shows the point-address data that Sussex County is creating. Point addresses are available for most of the county; the site shows the progress of re-addressing where point-addresses are not yet available.

The Sussex site uses a version o the orthophotography that has been simplified to 10-meter pixels. There was some discussion of the server-space challenges of using the higher-resolution version.

Matt and Brad discussed their plans to improve the site and their relations with the County Information technology department to maintain the site. They invite comments and constructive criticism.

Roundtable #2: What Data/Projects Are You Working On?

This roundtable discussion was designed to allow attendees to give a brief update on data projects now under way.

- DelDOT: Working on installation of a new vertical control reference network. DelDOT survey staff are working on creating as-built data sets of projects that DelDOT is involved in.
- New Castle County: County GIS managers have assigned staff full time to moving address points, which the county has as parcel centroids, to the locations of the addressed buildings. This should match the address points now available for most of Sussex County. The county is also working on a data set of subdivision polygons.
- WILMAPCO: Staff are planning to create an on-line map of the locations of planned, future transportation improvement projects.
- Artesian Water Co.: Now in the starting stages of a transition to a full GIS system.
- Census Bureau: The TIGER data set has been updated with a 2004 TIGER published. The next update is set for 2008.
- DelDOT: Staff are working on a comprehensive transit study for the Lewes/Rehoboth area.
- URS: Staff are working on a variety of projects, including a tree inventory for the City of New Castle, storm drains for DelDOT and Wilmington, and manhole locations for Port Penn.

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- Sussex County: Staff are continuing to readdress the county and to maintain parcel and other data sets.
- DNREC: Issues around the watershed data created by USGS will need to be addressed.
- DHSS: Staff are working on data regarding blood lead levels. There is also an effort to publish data on state services centers, hospitals and other facilities.
- Kim Cloud: Though at the meeting representing DTI, Kim noted that she is doing master's thesis work on historic flood data.
- RDMS: The RDMS staff have created an on-line map of the University campus and are continuing to work on the state metadata clearinghouse. There are plans in the works for a metadata workshop as well.
- CADSR: John Laznik is working on a map of school feeder patterns for the Department of Education.

Wrap Up
The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:00 p.m.

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